MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of the Language Development Program Committee Meeting
5 August 1959

1. The Committee for Language Development, in full membership, met at 1500 hours, 5 August 1959, at the request of the DTR who addressed the group on matters of reducing costs in the Language Development Program. He suggested ways to cut costs including awards, the voluntary instruction, and external language training. The first to be reduced to $200,000 for the fiscal year, voluntary instruction to be cut 60%, perhaps by eliminating instruction in French, German, Spanish, and Italian and reduce external training expenditures by $100,000.

2. The committee members made such suggestions as cutting out maintenance at the intermediate level, establishing the same amount for achievement awards as for maintenance, and tightening up on eligibility for attending voluntary classes. It was also suggested that, in the case of external training - except for Senior Defense Schools - each office accept the cost for such training.

3. There was much discussion about the VLTP. A strong case was made for directed training particularly if operational use of a language is the goal. While 15 or more languages have been taught in the off-hours program, the results of tests show that the program itself has not produced individuals with a language capability to fit an operational assignment. It was found that even those who scored well in the Foreign Language Aptitude Test Battery did not learn a language very well as a student in the program. The answer to operational levels is still directed training.

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4. Perhaps the most positive action that came out of the meeting was the decision that [ ] should continue his survey and observation in the testing department and that the grading scale should be made more rigid. Bill was to report to the DTR on this. The second was that as of 4 February or as of the beginning of the second semester, teeth will be put into the VLTP as to number of classes taught and the level of instruction particularly in the Romance languages.

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